

09/600208

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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Fig. 5 shows an arrangement according to the present invention having an additional beamsplitter input 18 for feeding in a further light source 19, preferably providing a laser light beam. With no modification of the actual illumination beam path, this laser light beam could be adaptable to the entry pupil of the objective, thus also making possible in this context an optimization of the laser light beam with no adaptation of the actual illumination beam path.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 19-21 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 17, 22, 28, 29, 32, and 38 as follows:

See 1616818
Sub 3

17. (Amended) An optical arrangement in an illumination beam path of a confocal laser microscope, said optical arrangement comprising an illumination optical system arranged in said illumination beam path for modifying an illumination diameter of an illumination beam of said microscope, wherein the illumination optical system is a zoom optical system which operates steplessly.

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22. (Amended) The optical arrangement according to claim 17, wherein said zoom optical system is motorized.

28. (Amended) The optical arrangement according to claim 17, wherein said illumination optical system is arranged downstream from a point light source of said microscope.

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29. (Amended) The optical arrangement according to claim 17, wherein said illumination optical system is arranged downstream from an optical fiber light source of said microscope.

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32. (Amended) The optical arrangement according to claim 17, wherein said illumination optical system includes an expanding optical system for a coupled-in laser beam.